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Belgian, Irish and Danish buyers aim to source British pet and garden products at 'Meet the Buyer' event

Three important overseas buyers who are aiming to source new British pet, garden and leisure products will be meeting with UK companies in November at the latest 'Meet the Buyer' event organised by the PetQuip and Gardenex export associations. The buyers from Belgium, Ireland and Denmark will be holding one-to-one discussions with participants and evaluating their products. The same format has been used by the two associations over a number of years and has resulted in export orders and long term export business for many British suppliers.

The deadline for registering an interest in meeting the buyers is 3 November. The cost for a reserved meeting with the buyers is just £59+VAT for PetQuip and Gardenex members and £159+VAT for non-members. Registration forms are available from PetQuip by ringing 01959 565995.

The event is being held at Notcutts Garden Centre, Solihull, on 13 November 2008. The buyers taking part are Myrèse Wonner-Wirajendi, managing director of Indobel, Belgium, Frank O'Dowd, purchasing and operations manager of Connacht Gold, western Ireland; and Søren Nielsen, managing director of Hortensia A/S, Denmark.

Indobel is a Belgian importer and distributor of products for garden, pets and lifestyle and is already importing from one PetQuip member in the UK. The company's pet care range focuses on high quality innovative products for dogs, cats, small mammals and wild birds, including training aids, snacks and all types of accessories. Indobel supplies independent pet shops and pet retail chains in Belgium and The Netherlands. In addition, it is able to supply other European countries through its links with local wholesalers. Myrèse Wonner-Wirajendi is looking for all types of pet care products to add to the Indobel range.

Connacht Gold is an Irish co-operative society with a turnover of €320 million in 2007. It has 29 retail stores that stock an increasing number of garden and DIY items and in spring 2009 is due to open a new 24,000ft² Sligo store that will include a 6,000sq ft state-of-the-art pet department.

Connaught Gold's stores include five ultra-modern DIY and garden centres located in Tubbercurry, Ballina, Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis and Ballaghaderreen and a modern store in Mohill, plus plans for four additional centres.

Hortensia A/S is a Danish importer/distributor, supplying garden centres, gift shops and DIY stores in Denmark. The company also supplies garden centres in Sweden and a few in Norway and Finland. Hortensia currently imports from several Gardenex members and is looking for additional practical gardening accessories and tools, garden decoration and garden gift items.

Companies who wish to take part in these Meet the Buyer meetings or other events organised by PetQuip and Gardenex should contact The Federation of Garden and Leisure Manufacturers Ltd, the trade association that works on behalf of British companies to help its members increase sales worldwide.

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